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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------032585 221948Z /61
O 220738Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1758

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 17537

EXDIS

JIDDA FOR ATHERTON; RABAT FOR SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR EG SA
SUBJECT: PROPOSED EGYPTIAN BRIEFING OF SAUDIS ON LEEDS TALKS

REF: CAIRO 17532

1. FONMIN KAMEL CALLED ON SECURE PHONE 2000 TONIGHT AS HE HAD PROMISED. SAID THAT ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE IN BRIEFING SAUDIS HAVE NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY WRITTEN, HE HAS IN MIND INCORPORATING THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

2. FIRST, EGYPT INTENDS TO GIVE SAUDIS A "FULL PICTURE" OF THE LEEDS DISCUSSIONS, INCLUDING THE ISRAELI AND THE EGYPTIAN POSITIONS. EGYPTIANS WILL EMPHASIZE THAT THERE WERE VIRTUALLY NO TALKS ON SINAI AND THAT WEST BANK/GAZA WAS FOCUS OF DISCUSSIONS. THE ISRAELIS, THE SAUDIS WILL BE TOLD, CONTINUE TO INSIST ON SOME SORT OF A TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE IN THE WEST BANK AND HAD MENTIONED
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THE ALLON PLAN. THE ISRAELIS BELIEVE THAT WHATEVER SECURITY MEASURES ARE AGREED UPON, SUCH MEASURES MUST HAVE A TERRITORIAL DIMENSION. THEY HAD STATED THAT THEY DO NOT WANT TO FEEL AS "FOREIGNERS" IN THE WEST BANK.

3. SECOND, AS FAR AS THE EGYPTIAN POSITION IS CONCERNED, KAMEL INDICATED THAT THE SAUDIS WILL BE GIVEN A FULL

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BRIEFING OF WHAT WAS SAID IN REPLY TO THE ISRAELIS. SPECIFICALLY, THE STRONG EGYPTIAN OPPOSITION TO ANY TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS WILL BE MADE CLEAR. WHILE EGYPT IS READY TO WORK OUT ALL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS WITH ISRAEL, THE SAUDIS WILL BE TOLD THAT GOE ABSOLUTELY REFUSES ANY TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS.

4. THIRD, THE SAUDIS WILL BE TOLD THAT DAYAN AGREED TO TAKE THE IDEAS PRESENTED BY THE EGYPTIAN SIDE BACK TO ISRAEL FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ISRAELI CABINET. GOE IS NOW AWAITING A REPLY AFTER THE UPCOMING ISRAELI CABINET DECISION.

5. KAMEL CONTINUED THAT, IN SADAT'S VIEW, NOW IS THE TIME FOR USG TO COME UP WITH ITS OWN PROPOSAL. GOE BELIEVES WE SHOULD ALSO TELL THE SAUDIS ABOUT OUR INTENDED PROPOSAL. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT DETAILS COULD NOT BE PROVIDED, BUT SOMETHING SHOULD BE SAID TO THE SAUDIS ABOUT OUR GENERAL IDEAS. THIS, HE OPINED, COULD BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE SAUDIS AND THE JORDANIANS, SINCE THE SAUDIS WILL BE IN A POSITION TO INFLUENCE THE JORDANIANS.

6. I URGED THAT, WHEN GIVING THE SAUDIS A "FULL PICTURE" OF THE LEEDS TALKS, THE EGYPTIANS NOT ONLY SPEAK OF THE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW (WHICH WE DO NOT MINIMIZE), BUT ALSO

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ABOUT THE IDENTIFIED POINTS OF COMMONALITY IN THE TWO PLANS THAT ARE NOW ON THE TABLE. KAMEL RESPONDED THAT THE POINTS OF COMMONALITY, WHILE PRESENT, ARE GENERAL AND DO NOT ALTER THE ANNOUNCED ISRAELI INTENTION TO RETAIN SOME ARAB TERRITORY IN THE WEST BANK. THIS, HE CONTENDED, IS THE CRUX OF THE ISSUE; NOT WHATEVER PROCEDURAL POINTS OF COMMONALITY MAY EXIST FOR THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. APART FROM MINOR RECTIFICATIONS IN THE WEST BANK, WHICH SADAT AND MOST OTHER RESPONSIBLE ARAB LEADERS CAN ACCEPT, ANY SUBSTANTIAL TERRITORIAL CONCESSION IN THE NAME OF SECURITY, SUCH AS THE ISRAELIS ARE DEMANDING, IS UNACCEPTABLE. IT IS THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE, HE INSISTED, THAT IS THE MAJOR POINT OF DIFFERENCE AND THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO PEACE, WHICH BOTH SIDES SAY THEY WANT. IF THE ISRAELIS GIVE UP THEIR TERRITORIAL DEMANDS, WHICH HE RATHER DOUBTED THAT THEY WILL, THEN THE ENTIRE PICTURE CHANGES.

7. SAID I UNDERSTOOD THE EGYPTIAN CONCERN, BUT EMPHASIZED THE SAUDIS SHOULD BE URGED TO UNDERSTAND THAT MOVEMENT ON THIS DIFFICULT PROBLEM WILL INEVITABLY HAVE TO BE ON A STEP-BY-STEP BASIS. WHATEVER DAYAN MAY HAVE SAID AT

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THE LEEDS TALKS, THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE LINE AND
FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ARE CLEARLY NECESSARY. IN THIS
CONNECTION, I ASKED IF THE SAUDIS WILL BE TOLD ABOUT THE
POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER MEETING IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS OR
SO. KAMEL REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, NOTING SADAT'S PUBLIC
POSITION THAT ANOTHER MEETING DEPENDS UPON WHETHER THE
ISRAELIS ADD SOME "NEW ELEMENTS." HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD
ASSURED THE SECRETARY THAT EGYPT WILL AGREE TO ANOTHER

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MEETING WHEN OR SHORTLY BEFORE THE SECRETARY COMES TO
THE AREA, BUT KAMEL INSISTED THAT THE EGYPTIANS ARE NOT
IN A POSITION AT THIS TIME TO SO INDICATE TO THE SAUDIS.
I NOTED THAT ATHERTON WILL DOUBTLESS SAY THAT WE HOPE
ANOTHER MEETING CAN TAKE PLACE. KAMEL SAID THIS WAS UP
TO US, BUT WE SHOULD NOT INDICATE EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT.
DOING SO WILL CAUSE GREAT EMBARRASSMENT FOR GOE. THE
IMPORTANT THING IS THAT SOME "NEW ELEMENTS" COME FROM THE
ISRAELI SIDE. KAMEL THOUGHT EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN JIDDA
WILL BE INSTRUCTED SPEAK TO SAUDIS AND SAUDI AMBASSADOR
HERE WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED.

7. KAMEL ASKED THAT WE BRIEF HIM ON ATHERTON'S TALKS
WITH THE SAUDIS ONCE THESE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. HE ALSO
INDICATED THAT HE WOULD LET ME KNOW OF THE EGYPTIAN
INSTRUCTIONS FOR BRIEFING THE JORDANIANS ONCE THESE HAVE
BEEN DRAFTED EARLY NEXT WEEK. HE SAID HE HAD ASKED
SADAT EARLIER TODAY ABOUT PRESS REPORTS THAT HUSSEIN MIGHT
BE COMING HERE. SADAT HAD DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE.
HE HAD THEN ASKED SADAT'S APPROVAL TO MAKE A TRIP TO
AMMAN SOMETIME NEXT WEEK, BUT THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT GIVEN

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HIM ANY FIRM ANSWER. HE INTENDS TO FOLLOW UP WITH SADAT
ON THIS MATTER ASAP. EILTS

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